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Qaddafi Hunts Weapons to Use Against Israel

Libya's venomous dictator Muammar Qaddafi is spending millions of dollars of his oil profits according to secret investigative reports, to bankroll a stealthy operation acquiring arms anywhere in the world for use by Palestine-terrorist forces against Israel.

High on his undercover shopping list are U.S. weapons. Middle East experts ascribe this to the fact that American-made arms were used successfully by the Israelis in past conflicts with Arab enemies. In his fanaticism against the Jews, Qaddafi is convinced that the quality of the U.S. equipment rather than the caliber of Israeli fighting men was responsible for their successes.

In his obsession to obtain American equipment, the Libyan strongman is ready to go to any lengths and resort to any means. Here is a case history from the secret files of the FBI detailing the effort of Qaddafi agents to rope an American businessman into a deal to buy U.S. military equipment abandoned in Vietnam.

Reviewed by my associate Dale Van Atta, the secret records show:

that New Yorker Edward Loyd became a furtive figure in a multimillion-dollar transaction to funnel nearly 80,000 M16 rifles and 22 million rounds of ammunition to Libya, where they would be handed over to the Palestine-Liberations Organiza-

tion. That number of rifles would be enough to supply five U.S. Army divisions, reveals FBI agents who interviewed Loyd in the middle of the operation.

Learned that he was a commodities dealer who had sold Libya some communications devices. In December 1975, he was invited to meet at the Libyan Embassy in London with Lt. Abdurrazzaq Hanka, a naval attaché who was in reality an embassy intelligence agent. As a smokescreen, Hanka informed Loyd of Libya's interest in procuring various com-

modities, mentioning on an equal basis such items as foodstuffs, dairy cattle and military arms.

The FBI file also notes: "However, as the discussion proceeded, Loyd said it became obvious that Hanka was primarily interested in procuring military arms."

The Libyan agent told the New Yorker that his government wanted to re-arm its forces with U.S. equipment and offered to "purchase outright up to 50,000 M16s, unlimited ammunition to include five million tracer rounds; M16 parts and bayonets."

Loyd indicated he had contacts who could supply the weapons from

the American arsenal left behind in Vietnam. The FBI account alleges that a deal was struck by which Loyd would set up two separate shipments of an initial 50,000 M16s with ammunition and then 30,000 more with 17 million rounds.

According to the FBI, Loyd traveled to Bangkok where he met another Libyan intelligence operative and two representatives of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, described as a Marxist-Leninist oriented Arab terrorist group.

Hanka also showed up, and a day later, Loyd submitted a \$10-million letter of credit to a Bangkok bank. The FBI account discloses that the transaction eventually fell through: Loyd and Hanka flew back to London, where Hanka expressed his displeasure with Loyd over his failure. According to the American, the Libyan agent told him "he had at least 10 other people trying to sell him arms, indicating he had no further use for Loyd's services."

The file expressed belief that some of Loyd's American contacts were members of a ring of unscrupulous arms dealers who have access to a large quantity of U.S. arms smuggled from Vietnam. The value of the arms deals is a minimum of \$23 million and may involve a quantity of 230,000 M16 rifles. A large part of this supply is destined for Libya and eventually to terrorist organizations.